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THE BRYOLOGIST

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TORTULA PAGORUM (MILDE) DeNOT., NEAR HARPERS FERRY. W. VA.

A. T. Beals

In February, 1919, after finishing a strenuous week's work photographing reconstruction methods at the Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C., a day in the open seemed to offer the most desirable form of rest. Harpers Ferry, with the Blue Ridge mountains, was the nearest locality that appeared to have hills and river scenery with possible brooks and wet ledges. The day was cloudy and muddy underfoot, but such things are mere details.

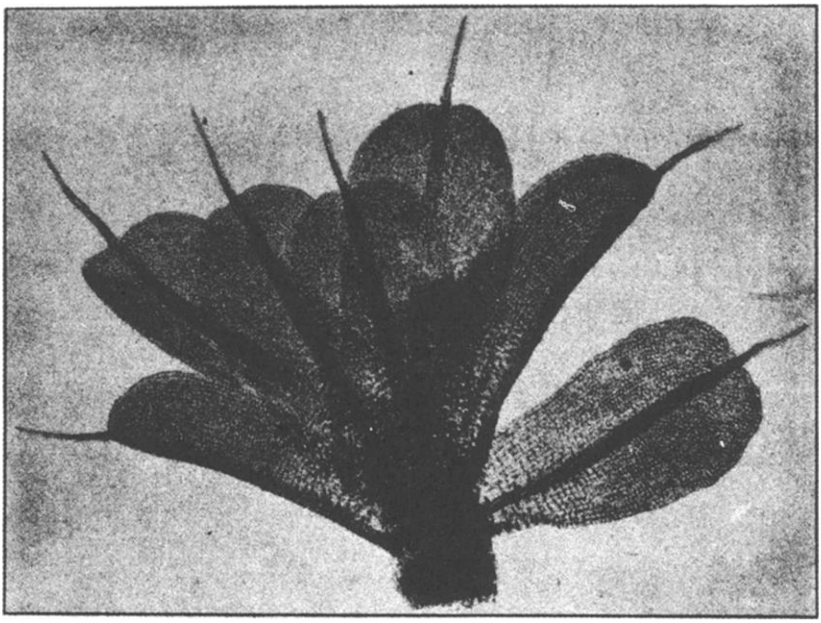

Fig. 1. Tortula pagorum, collected in Italy by E. Corti. Magnification about 60 diameters. Photograph by A. T. Beals.

The train left Washington about noon and arrived at Harpers Ferry at 2 P. M. Time was limited, so the bridge over the Potomac River was quickly

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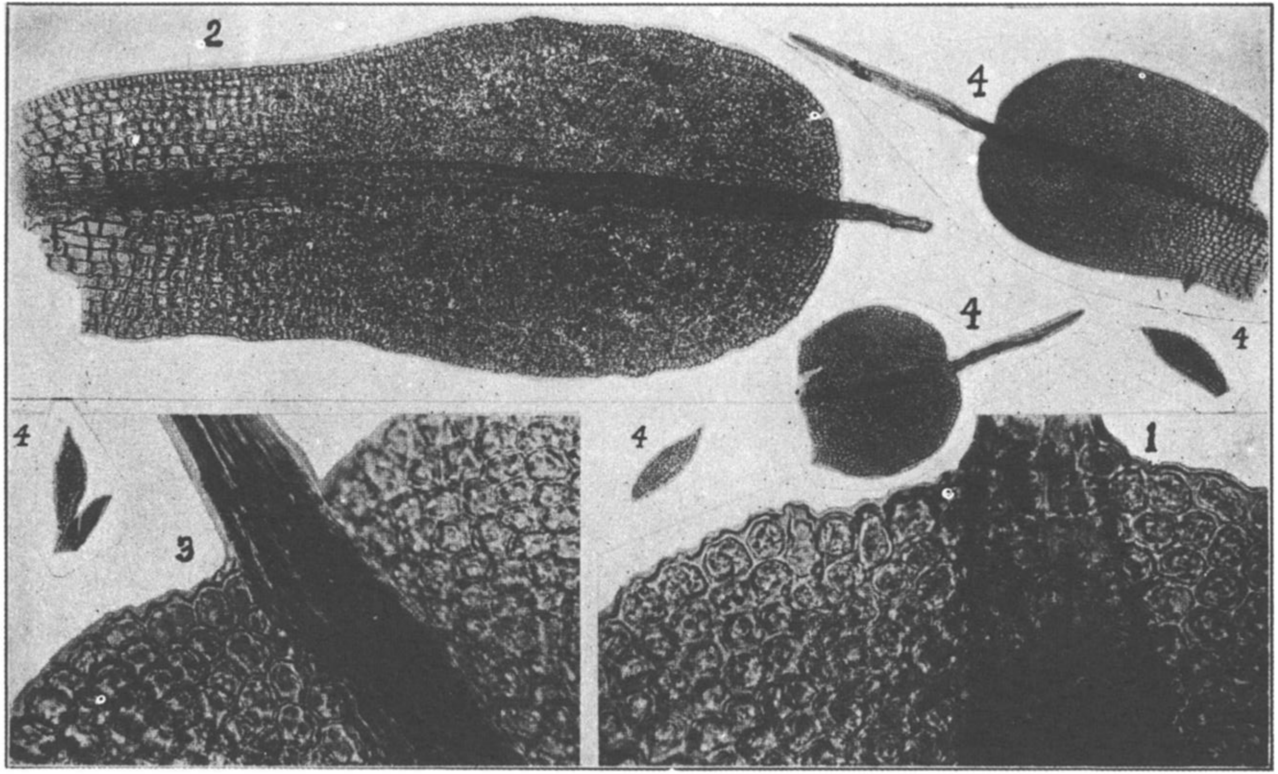

TORTULA PAGORUM (MILDE) DENOT

recrossed, and a dirt road running north at the base of Elk Ridge, in the State of Maryland, was followed. Between the muddy road and the river was the canal, and at the right of the road the rocks and hillside rose abruptly. Not far from the quaint old bridge was a little old unpainted building labeled "Museum of War Relics," containing mementoes of the war of 1861, but not open during the winter. A short distance from the museum the hillside became less abrupt and small trees and bushes scantily covered it. A few of the more common mosses had been gathered but none had been noted that seemed to be new to me.

It was along this part of the hillside, seventy-five feet above the road, that a patch of yellow-green color was seen on a nearly perpendicular rock. A short stiff scramble enabled me to examine with a hand-lens some of the yellow-green material and it was seen to consist of small plants with blunt-ended leaves that had a heavy costa, long excurrent and sharply pointed. The *Tortulaceae* seemed to be the most likely family and considerable of this material was carefully scraped from the rock, placed in packages and carefully stored in inside pockets, as being choice and interesting. Another moss about the same size but without the excurrent costa, was also found abundantly in this same yellow-green patch. It was not fruited but appeared to be an *Orthotrichum.*

Farther along on slate-like, dry, ledgy rocks a very small gray plant was found, too soft for a lichen, and this proved to be *Fabronia octoblepharis* (Schleich.) Schwaegr. and fairly well fruited.

After returning to New York the first-mentioned material was studied jointly by Miss Daisy J. Levy and myself, and we decided the plant to be *Tortula pagorum* (Milde) DeNot. No fruit was seen. To verify this determination a package was sent to Mr. E. B. Chamberlain, but while he favored our determination he suggested sending a specimen to a bryologist who had collected this interesting moss in its type station, Meran, South Tyrol, where also *Fabronia octoblepharis* is abundant. Consequently a package was sent to Mr. W. E. Nicholson, and in due time his reply stated that while our material varied in some unimportant details he considered our plant correctly named.

In July, 1919, Miss Daisy Levy spent a week collecting in the vicinity of Harpers Ferry and found that farther north along the river road at the base of Elk Ridge many trees and ledges carried growths of the *Tortula* as well as the *Fabronia.*

Tortula pagorum has been collected once before in the United States by Dr. J. K. Small, on elm trees at Atlanta, Ga.[1]

2929 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

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[1] Grout, A. J. Tortula pagorum (Milde) DeNot. in Georgia. BRYOLOGIST 7: 65. Pl. 8, figs. 3, 4, 5. 1904.

Nicholson, Wm. E. Tortula pagorum (Milde) DeNot. BRYOLOGIST 8: 70. 1905. (Refers to Grout's article, cited above.)

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TORTULA PAGORUM (MILDE) DENOT., BY A. T. BEALS

Fig. 1. Edge of leaf of plant from Harpers Ferry including part of costa. Note cells at left showing two papillae on each in profile. Magnification about 600 diameters.

Fig. 2. Leaf of Harpers Ferry plant. Cells at base hyaline and longer than wide; those above smaller, rounded, densely chlorophyllose and papillose. Edges slightly wavy by projecting cells. Magnification about 82 diameters.

Fig. 3. Edge of leaf from plant collected in Italy by E. Corti. Magnification about 450 diameters.

Fig. 4. Leaves and brood bodies from Italian plant. Magnification about 50 diameters.

BARTRAMIOPSIS LESCURII

JOHN M. HOLZINGER

During the war I distributed *Bartramiopsis Lescurii* (James) Kindb., Rev. bryol., 1894, p. 35, *Atrichum Lescurii* James, coll. et det. T. C. Frye, July 26, 1913.

Mr. Kindberg published his characterization of the genus *Bartramiopsis* in Rev. bry., 1894, p. 33. On page 35 he described what he considered *Atrichum Lescurii* James, evidently constructing his genus for the reception of the plant described by James. Cardot and Theriot, in Proc. Wash. Acad. of Sci., July 31, 1902, pp. 325–6, pl. XXI, figs. 2 a-1, contend that he made his description from sterile specimens collected in Japan. I cannot find their source of information on this point. But, whatever the facts are here, there is internal evidence that Kindberg's description is a composite. At the end of his description of six lines he writes "Lesq. & James"; a little over four lines are not in quotation marks, when a comparison of the descriptions shows that Kindberg really did quote these lines, with slight changes and an important omission. Then he writes in quotation marks: "capsule erect, short, cylindric ovate, *constricted below the mouth;* pedicel short." The corresponding part of the description in Lesq. & James' Manual reads: "capsule erect, cylindric-ovate, short, *enlarged at the orifice and turbinate when empty;* pedicel short and thick." Whence that "constricted below the mouth?"

Kindberg here evidently has some related plant before him: was it a *Lyellia?* See Engler & Prantl, figs. on p. 678, where both the entire plants and microscopic characters of *Lyellia crispa* and *Bartramiopsis Lescurii* are reproduced from E. S. Salmon's article in the Journal of Botany, 1902, p. 341.

James describes the cells of the lamina as "nearly round, obscure." He failed to find that they appeared "obscure" because *bistratose.* This is one of the essential because generic characters of the plant: James indicated it, accidentally; but Kindberg quite omitted it, p. 35, as he also failed to mention another striking character, the few long cilia at the base of the lamina.

Cardot and Theriot had reason for stepping in. They made their own description, which is scrupulously correct and sufficient, accepted Kindberg's generic name, and ushered the plant described by James, evidently the same